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ABSTRACT

In an attempt to create more youth and adult partnerships to prevent violence throughout California, the California Attorney General's Office, the California Youth Authority, and the California Department of Health Services joined together on this community action research project. The members of the Attorney General's Youth Council on Violence Prevention developed a community survey tool, met with various leaders, and questioned youth about the best strategies to prevent violence. The Youth Council's recommendations became known as the "16 power plays" and are included in this report. The report also describes some challenges facing California youth today, including gangs, cultural diversity, teen dating relationship violence, and violence in the media. State initiatives designed to help reduce youth violence are detailed in the report. They pertain to balanced justice, public and community services, state coordination of youth resources, educating youth about Firearm Laws, and mentoring. Several Internet sources for youth violence prevention are listed. Information about the J.U.M.P. (Join Us Make Peace) City Youth Violence Prevention CD-ROM is included. (JDM)

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California Attorney General's Youth Council on Violence Prevention
1998 Final Report

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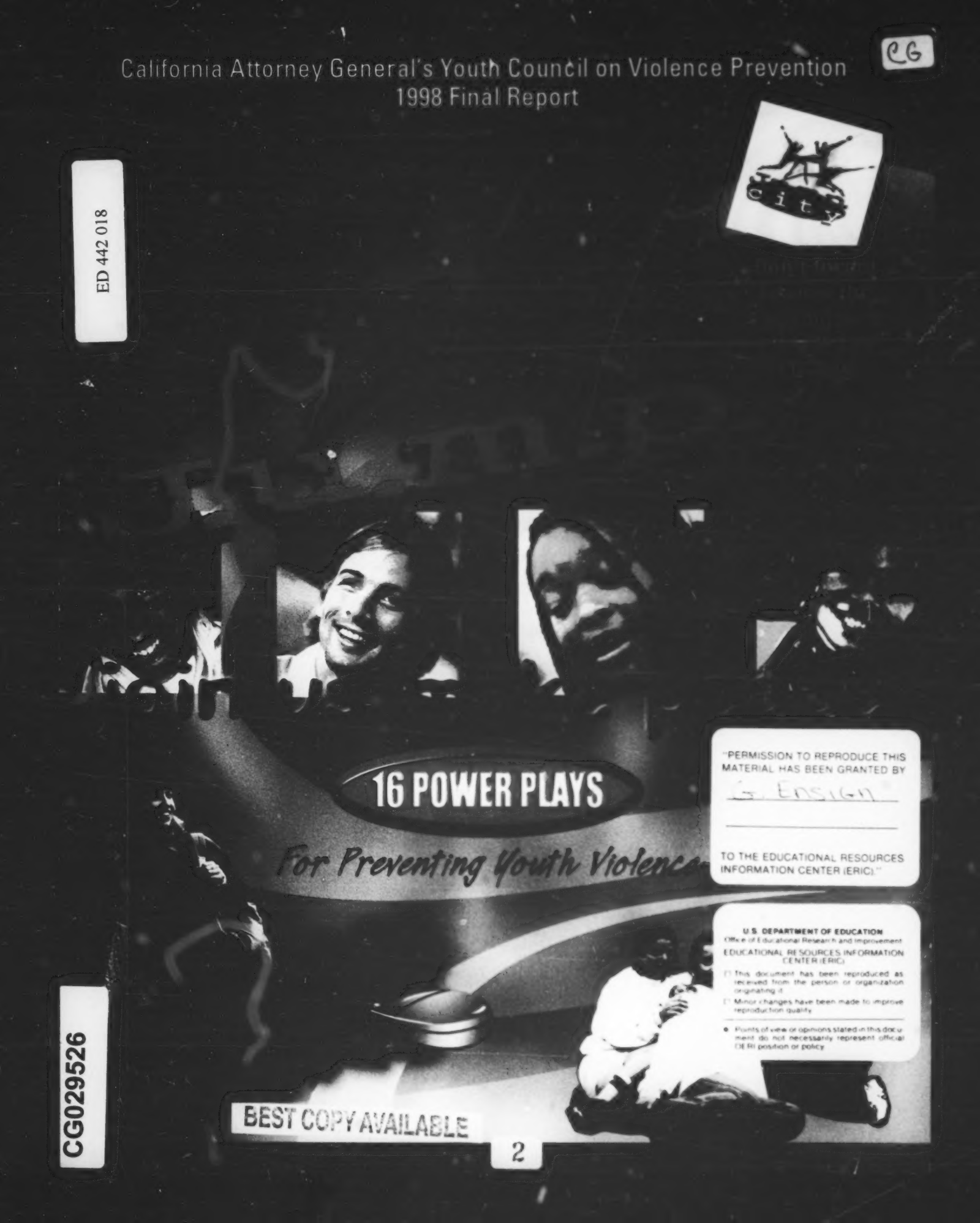

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J.U.M.P.

There's a place where youth lead the way in preventing violence and peace rules the streets... it's called J.U.M.P. City!

Created by teens, **J.U.M.P. (Join Us Make Peace) City** is a fast-paced, interactive, reality-based CD-ROM adventure with great music, awesome games, and cool video clips. Players learn the vital role they have in reversing America's culture of violence!

Also included is the **J.U.M.P. Report**. This colorful 40 page guide was written by teens and highlights "16 power plays" to prevent violence and includes valuable Internet resources.

Produced by the California Attorney General's Office in association with the California Youth Authority and California Department of Health Services, **J.U.M.P. City** and the **J.U.M.P. Report** can be ordered from Cal Image Associates at (800) 982-1420.

Visit the California Attorney General's web site at **http://caag.state.ca.us/cvpc** to find out more about violence prevention.

join us make peace

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Hey California youth!

Are you ready to help steer the hearts and minds of Californians toward building more youth/adult partnerships to prevent violence? You know it won't be easy, because if you watch television news, listen to the radio, read a newspaper or popular magazine, people are given the impression that all youth are dangerous. We know that this isn't true, and have the information to prove it!

Since 1991 the California juvenile arrest rate for homicide has fallen by nearly 52%.[1] During the same period, the rate of juvenile felony arrests for violent offenses declined by 9.6%.[2] In fact, adults accounted for over 85% of arrests for violent offenses in 1996![3] You probably would not believe these numbers if your friends shared them with you, but believe us – we got them from the California Department of Justice!

This last year, we had the awesome opportunity to be members of the Attorney General's Youth Council on Violence Prevention. At first, we thought it would be a lot of fun and a little work. Well, it was a lot of fun – but it turned out to be a lot of work, too! One tough task was to decide how to explain violence prevention to the public. After a lot of thought and talk, we decided that violence prevention can be described as "reducing risk, raising responsibility, and rewarding respect."

In November 1997, we met with the Attorney General and the entire membership of the Youth Council to learn about the Crime and Violence Prevention Center, receive the "charge" and "guidelines" to complete our mission, and get started on our community-action and research plans. Over the next several months, we developed a community survey tool and met with business, government, school, neighborhood, church, and youth leaders in our areas to talk about violence and the best strategies to prevent it. And we talked with the media – many of us were interviewed on television, in the newspaper, and on the radio about the Youth Council!

> *Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time: the need for man to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence. Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation.*
>
> –Martin Luther King, Jr.
> Nobel Prize acceptance speech
> Stockholm, Sweden
> December 11, 1964.

[1] Crime and Delinquency in California, 1996, page 39
[2] Ibid., page 37
[3] Ibid., page 38

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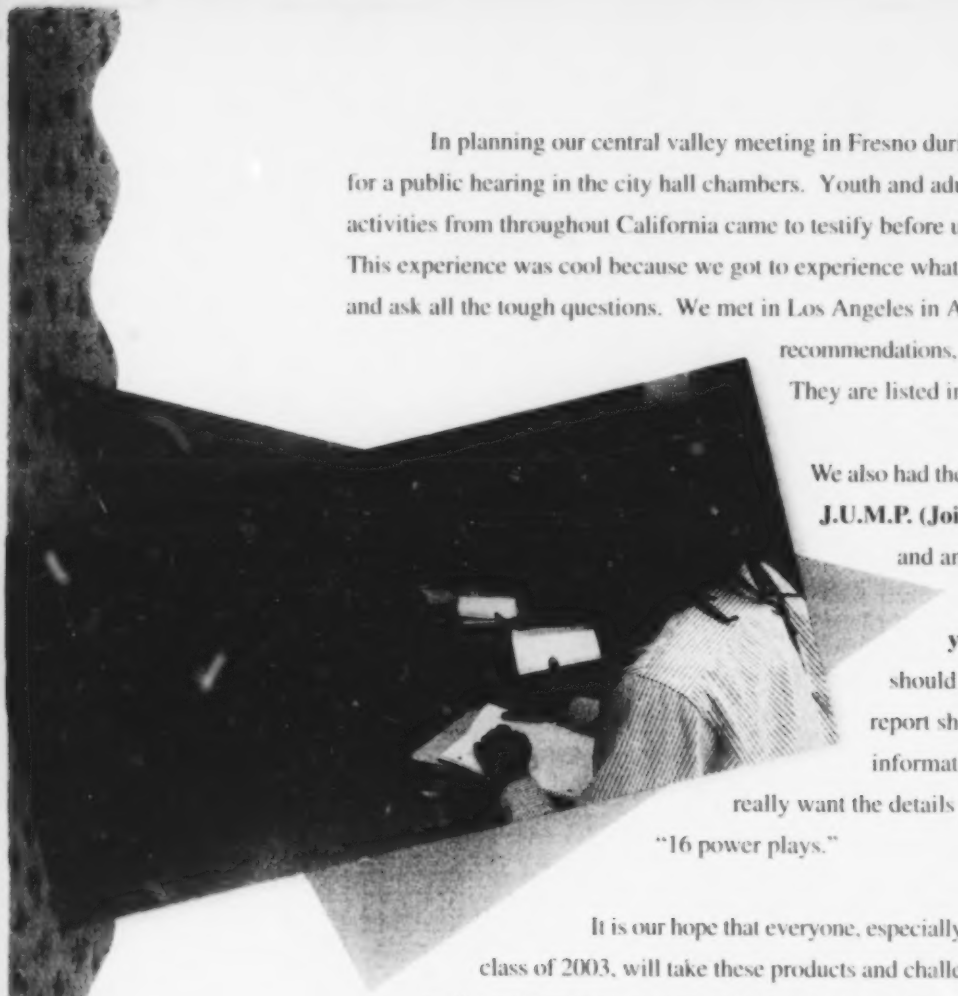

In planning our central valley meeting in Fresno during March 1998, we decided to call for a public hearing in the city hall chambers. Youth and adults involved in violence prevention activities from throughout California came to testify before us about their ideas and strategies. This experience was cool because we got to experience what it is like to be an elected official and ask all the tough questions. We met in Los Angeles in August to hammer out the final recommendations, which we call our **"16 power plays."** They are listed in this report.

We also had the chance to help develop the attached **J.U.M.P. (Join Us Make Peace) City CD-ROM** and an **Internet web site: www.caag.state.ca.us/cvpc/youth/youth.htm** which we think you should check out. We decided to keep this report short, so we put a lot of research and information on this web site for those who really want the details about how we devised our "16 power plays."

It is our hope that everyone, especially the California high school freshmen class of 2003, will take these products and challenge elected officials, peace officers, media and business owners, religious leaders, community-based organizations, school principals, health care professionals, and others to involve youth in decisions and help launch more youth and adult partnerships to prevent violence throughout California. With all due respect, the lip service about the importance of youth involvement must end, and the reality of youth being players at the table must begin now!

The California Attorney General's Crime and Violence Prevention Center (CVPC) has worked hard to set a model for state agencies to work directly with youth and show the amazing benefits. One of the most important goals the Youth Council wants to achieve from this effort is to see more state government agencies and employees working directly with youth. Believe us and CVPC – it's a win-win deal!

In doing our research, we found that state government has a history of involving youth in developing solutions to community problems dating back to the 1940s. Governors Earl Warren, Goodwin Knight, Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, and Ronald Reagan directed their administrations to coordinate services and strategies through the Governor's Advisory Committee on Children and Youth. Though more recent administrations have involved youth in different capacities, the earlier governors established a formal policy commission which represented our state at the former White House Conferences on Children and Youth. Our research of the different commissions'

Hey California! Read this report, take ownership of an idea, and join us to make peace now!

recommendations showed us that during the past 50 years, the California landscape, people, and risks have changed, but the foundation for solutions remains the same – caring, trusting, and dedicated adults working with youth in communities to empower, enlighten, and inspire make all the difference in building a stronger individual.

We learned a lot throughout this Youth Council experience. One of the most difficult realities we must all prepare for when working as a group or as youth/adult leadership teams is to be prepared for disappointments and even failure. Two of our youth leaders faltered and could not complete the council's mission with us. Nevertheless, their adult partners pledged to support their efforts at reform and we, as a council, are hopeful that those youth will make right choices about the value of academic achievement and personal responsibility.

Look, we have very high expectations about how this report will help keep the California crime and violence rates going down. Adults must set positive examples for young people if they expect better behavior. Adults must be leaders to create caring and supportive relationships, deliver a message of high expectations, and provide opportunities for meaningful involvement and contributions. Youth must demonstrate to adults that their time, energy, effort, and resources to help us will be well invested, and invite adults to be a part of our "youth culture." No matter how much we emphasize these goals, we cannot do it without your interest, leadership, and action. It is your challenge, too.

If you get nothing else from this report and the J.U.M.P. City CD-ROM, please remember these three points: (1) violence is preventable because it is a learned behavior – it can be unlearned; (2) youth and adult partnerships are critical to preventing violence and improving the community; and (3) youth must prove through attitudes and actions that we are ready and able to take the reins of leadership today.

California Attorney General's
Youth Council on Violence Prevention
1997-1998

Check this out!
J.U.M.P. City
(Join Us Make Peace) CD-ROM
and visit us at our web site:
www.caag.state.ca.us/cvpc/youth/youth.htm

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Thank you
California Attorney General!

We would like to thank you for this once in a lifetime opportunity to serve on the Youth Council on Violence Prevention. During the course of the last fifteen months, we have developed lifelong friendships, worked with violence prevention leaders from a variety of disciplines, learned from survivors who have been devastated by violence and are dedicated to preventing future tragedies, and visited violence prevention programs in different parts of the state. We are convinced that preventing violence requires not only effective state laws and policies which promote innovative community-based strategies, but also that individual leadership and personal responsibility make the most significant impact.

Since our appointments in October 1997, the Youth Council has come together three times to share information and reach consensus about the most effective youth violence prevention challenges facing California. Utilizing information from dozens of California violence prevention practitioners, community leaders, and our life experiences, we have collectively established 16 recommendations to help prevent youth violence and reverse our prevailing "culture of violence." We have worked very hard to meet your official charge and informal guidelines, and now pronounce our shared belief that violence is preventable and that youth must be leaders in transmitting and living the peace.

We have learned that it is only by working together that change comes. As the population of those under 18 in California is projected to reach over 10 million by the year 2000,[1] it is imperative for responsible, positive adult role models to guide the lives of young people. Youth also must make much more of an effort to encourage and welcome adult involvement in our daily lives and activities.

The Youth Council shall be an experience we will always remember and, hopefully, our work will inspire a California youth/adult leadership movement that will benefit future generations by reducing risk, raising responsibility, and rewarding respect.

Sincerely,
Youth Council on Violence Prevention
1997-1998

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[1]California Department of Finance, Research Demographics Unit, July 1998

California Attorney General's Charge to the Youth Council on Violence Prevention October 1997

Recognizing that youth must have a voice in determining effective violence prevention policies and strategies, this council is being asked to utilize the work produced by the Policy Council on Violence Prevention and the members' own experience to develop policies and strategies that:

- Include youth's views and ideas in state and local violence prevention efforts;
- Identify incentives for youth leadership and participation in violence prevention efforts;
- Encourage state and community leaders to give youth a meaningful voice in violence prevention efforts; and
- Assist state and local leaders in the planning and implementation of collaborative violence prevention efforts.

Attorney General's Guidelines for meeting the charge November 1997

- Prioritize your recommendations to a reasonable number so that policy makers and communities can identify with them quickly and take action. Make specific suggestions about what can be done to carry out each recommendation.
- Recommendations should come from common ground and collective decision-making. Don't let one or a few people drive the decisions. You, like leaders in communities and government, must find compromises which will help us achieve realistic solutions.
- As much as possible, recommendations should be backed up with research and documentation which supports your belief that the course of action is effective.
- Focus on our society, or culture, and how it impacts the decisions youth face every day. Ask yourself, 'Does our culture encourage violent behavior and celebrate the power of aggression, or does it value respect, character, honesty, and conflict resolution?'
- Utilize the resources that are available to us today. Avoid recommendations which require new money, people, or programs. Instead, give Californians ideas about taking immediate action, and not ideas that require waiting for government, private foundations, or businesses to allocate money to make something happen.

In short, your mission is to help reverse the pervasive culture of violence by addressing the causes of violence from a youth perspective, with recommended solutions which require youth and adult action.

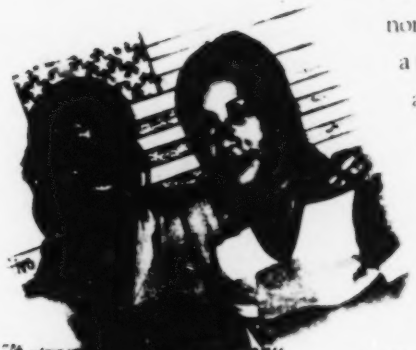
Youth Council Profiles- Ten Leadership Teams

TEAM VACAVILLE

The council is a lot of fun and hard work, and we're sorry it isn't permanent!"

Alicia Burton, 17, and her adult team member, Paula Watson, have developed a strong partnership and friendship in their commitment to reduce violence in Vacaville. Currently, both are active in the T.O.U.C.H. (Teens Organized and United for Community Health) Committee, the GAP (Gang Awareness Partnership) program, and other violence prevention activities on the campus of Will C. Wood High School. In May of 1998, Alicia, who is an ex-gang member, worked with a former rival gang member to coordinate a gang conflict mediation meeting in Vacaville. Working with law enforcement and school leaders, Alicia and her former rival, Andrea, brought together active gang members to show them that they have the power to prevent violence. For her leadership and courage to stop gang violence, Alicia received the 1998 "Peacekeepers Award" from the Vacaville Police Department and Vacaville Unified School District. Paula has been serving the Vacaville community as a senior community service officer in the police department. She has spent 14 years in the department's Youth Services Section helping runaways, truants, alternative education students, and assisting child abuse investigators. When asked about their membership on the Attorney General's Youth Council on Violence Prevention, Alicia replied, "The council is a lot of fun and hard work, and we're sorry it isn't permanent!"

TEAM WESTMINSTER



"It was ... so many people ... are so dedicated to preventing violence, and who are actually doing something about it!"

Yen Duong, 18, and her adult team member, Claire Braeburn, met through "Orange County On Track" which brought them together because of a mutual goal to promote non-violence and cultural diversity. As Claire recognized Yen's abilities and commitment, a friendship evolved into an outstanding youth/adult partnership. Yen and Claire are still active members of "On Track," an award winning, nonprofit violence prevention organization co-founded by Claire. "On Track" highlights youth media and interpersonal communications, community leadership, and mentoring in a magazine focused on the positive and read by over 100,000 people. In June 1998, as a result of her community service work and leadership with "On Track," which involved mentoring an at-risk youth and rallying her peers to stand up and speak out against violence, Yen was elected as the first youth ever to receive the important "Ambassador of Peace Award" from the Violence Prevention Coalition of Orange County. When asked about their membership in the Attorney General's Youth Council on Violence Prevention, Yen responded, "It was great meeting so many people who are so dedicated to preventing violence, and who are actually doing something about it!"

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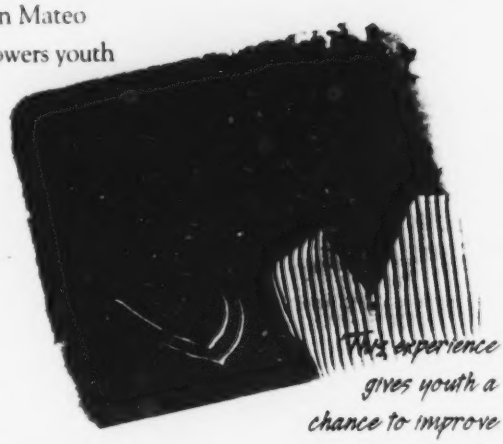
TEAM HALF MOON BAY

Janon Butler, 17, met her adult team member, Annette Passalacqua, at San Mateo County's "Voices Against Violence" summit in 1996, a campaign that empowers youth to effectively express their concerns and propose solutions to school and community safety. As a direct result of this summit, Janon went back to her Half Moon Bay High School and created the first-ever cultural diversity celebration. Janon also participates in the peer counseling/conflict management program, and is a member of her school's safety and prevention task force. As a result of her violence prevention and community leadership, Janon was the recipient of a 1998 award from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors' Child Abuse Awareness Committee which honors youth serving youth. She also received the Peer Counselor of the Year award at Half Moon Bay High. Annette serves as Program Director of the Center for Abuse Prevention in San Mateo County. She oversees a variety of projects targeted at reducing physical and emotional abuse through education, advocacy, and intervention. She considers her work as "planting seeds of a healthy future for individuals and community." Janon and Annette are pleased to be a part of the Attorney General's Youth Council on Violence Prevention and say, "This experience gives youth a chance to improve their futures, and a chance to make things right."



"This experience gives youth a chance to improve their futures, and a chance to make things right."

TEAM TRACY

Ruby Ng, 17, and her older brother Roland, are the only brother and sister team members on the Attorney General's Youth Council on Violence Prevention. Ruby serves as an appointee of the Juvenile Justice Commission of San Joaquin County, is an active youth leader for anti-tobacco initiatives, and a member of the Tracy Mayor's Youth Visions Committee. When Roland isn't working with the Boys & Girls Club of Tracy, or golfing, he is hard at work as a production line manager at Procter and Gamble. Since their appointments to the Attorney General's Youth Council, Team Ng (as they are called by Youth Council members) has been quite busy with school, sports, competitions, tutoring, mentoring, and community service. In 1998, Ruby won both the National Discover Card Tribute Award in Arts and Humanities, and *React Magazine*'s National Take Action Award for her initiative to improve the Tracy community. Part of her reward was a $25,000 donation of toys and merchandise for a charity of her choice, which was the Tracy Boys & Girls Club. Ruby was also named Tracy's Junior Miss and represented the city at the state competition, where she placed third runner-up. Roland is utilizing his high-tech skills through Apex Consulting, an Internet design and consulting firm which helps non-profit organizations and small businesses create a site on the Internet. Team Ng is on a mission with the Attorney General's Youth Council on Violence Prevention. "We want to empower today's youth to take action. Violence prevention is not an impossible dream – it can be achieved with enthusiasm, creativity, and involvement," Ruby says with a determined smile.

"We want to empower today's youth to take action. Violence prevention is not an impossible dream–it can be achieved with enthusiasm, creativity, and involvement."

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TEAM FRESNO

"The Attorney General's Youth Council on Violence Prevention has been a great way to serve Fresno County, the youth in our neighborhoods, and to support parks and recreation programs."

Albert Jimenez, 18, and his adult team member, Andre Escobar, met in 1996 while working at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County. At the club, Albert has grown from a volunteer and peer leader into a professional youth counselor. He coordinates two youth violence prevention groups known as "Homies" and W.O.W (Winners on Wheels). Albert has been the acting president of the "Homies" group which encourages youth to promote community solutions to gangs, drugs, and violence. The W.O.W. group coordinates activities and support for youth who use wheelchairs. In 1998, Albert was a runner-up finalist for the Fresno County Boys & Girls Clubs "Youth of the Year Award," and was appointed to the Keystone Club Steering Committee for the Western Region. Albert and Andre are active in their community, and promote mentoring and working with the faith community as effective ways to prevent youth violence. When Andre isn't mentoring Albert, he is at work helping homeless and runaway teens at The Sanctuary, a youth shelter which offers counseling, support, and family reunification services. Both have said that the Attorney General's Youth Council on Violence Prevention has been, "a great way to serve Fresno County, the youth in our neighborhoods, and to support parks and recreation programs."

TEAM EUREKA

"I think it's important to show youth that we can all get along if you just get to know one another – it's all about respect."

Cesar Villa, 18, and his adult team member, Simona Keat, have been working together on gang prevention and promoting cultural diversity for almost two years. Cesar and Simona have worked as a team by conducting conflict mediation and cultural awareness celebrations with students all over Humboldt County. They have personally intervened and prevented several racially charged gang fights from occurring, and they further responded by motivating the entire community to learn about the value of cultural diversity. In 1998, as a result of his violence prevention efforts, Cesar was awarded the California School Administrators' "Every Student Succeeding Award" and the "Excellence in Youth Community Service Award," sponsored by the Coast Central Credit Union. In addition to their activities at school, Cesar and Simona are actively involved in their community and are helping to coordinate the America's Promise youth campaign in Humboldt County. Simona is very active as the coordinator for the Gang Risk Intervention Program (G.R.I.P.), which is operated by the Humboldt County Office of Education. When asked about their opinions to prevent youth violence, Cesar said, "I think it's important to show youth that we can all get along if you just get to know one another – it's all about respect."

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TEAM SANTA CLARITA

Mike Egan, 18, and his adult team member, Ed Redd, have known one another for almost four years. They met at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Advisory Committee and worked together on the City of Santa Clarita's Youth Master Plan Committee. Mike has been very active in his school, Valencia High, the community, and even ran for a city council seat when he turned 18 – earning 918 votes! Both Mike and Ed believe that community involvement, parent education, youth character building, and fostering better relationships between law enforcement and youth are the keys to breaking the cycle of violence. They do all that they can to help spread this message – even instructing parenting classes at the local community college which emphasize the important role of fathers in American families. Mike says, "I am a firm believer that parents are the best role models for behavior, and if that doesn't work, it's time to call law enforcement."

"I am a firm believer that parents are the best role models for behavior, and if that doesn't work, it's time to call law enforcement."

TEAM OJAI

Dominique Houle, 15, met her adult team member, Jim Barrett, almost two years ago while both were working on the Ojai Youth Foundation's diversity committee and the City of Ojai's Youth Master Plan. Both believe that community action plans are imperative to the success of every community and that without seriously taking the opinions of youth into account, community action plans will fail. Along with her activities at Nordoff High School and with the Ojai Youth Master Plan, Dominique is also the youth board member for the Ojai Valley Youth Foundation where she has been a vocal leader for awareness and activities to respect cultural diversity. Dominique and Jim coordinated the first youth "Diversity Day" in Ojai in March of 1998 to help raise awareness and respect for other cultures and ethnic backgrounds. When not holding diversity events, helping out with the Ojai Youth Master Plan, or riding his horses, Jim serves as Chief of Police for the City of Ojai. Dominique is a sophomore at Nordoff High this year and believes that, "this Youth Council experience has introduced me to a lot of great people and ideas which I want to use in Ojai – with youth leading the way, of course!"

"This Youth Council experience has introduced me to a lot of great people and ideas which I want to use in Ojai – with youth leading the way, of course!"

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TEAM COMPTON

Shelly is instrumental in teaching wards and training staff in a class entitled "Impact of Crime on Victims," a course emphasizing personal accountability and empathy.

Lamar Grant, 17, met his adult team member, Shelly Wood, about three years ago when both were working at Glenn Truman's Camp Gid-D-Up – a cowboy camp for inner city kids. Since then, Lamar and Shelly have coordinated a week-long violence prevention celebration at Lamar's high school, complete with basketball games, food festivals, and leadership meetings. Because of his community efforts in violence prevention, Lamar was awarded "Hero of the Week" by Los Angeles news channel 9 in 1997, and was presented with the 1997 "Explorer of the Year Award" – the highest award given out by the Compton Chief of Police. Shelly Wood, when not planning violence prevention celebrations, keeps busy as an artist facilitator at the Fred C. Nelles Youth Correctional Facility in Whittier, and as a nationally-recognized instructor on balanced and restorative justice. Shelly is also instrumental in teaching wards and training staff in a class entitled "Impact of Crime on Victims," a course emphasizing personal accountability and empathy. Unfortunately, due to academic failure, Lamar was dismissed from his appointment as a member of the Attorney General's Youth Council in July 1998. Lamar is now a junior in high school and is "working very hard to get his grades up and, someday, get into college," according to Shelly. The Youth Council was grateful that Shelly remained on the council to provide her enthusiasm and expertise.

TEAM AUBURN

The Youth Council asked Karen to stay on the council and provide her leadership and ideas which will encourage other youth to remain accountable for their behavior.

Chris Booth, 18, met his adult team member, Karen Green, about two years ago while Chris was a defendant in Placer County's Peer Court Program. Peer court influences first-time offenders to face consequences and change their behavior – before earning a record or spending time in the traditional juvenile justice system. Since his role as a defendant, Chris has been involved in every aspect of peer court, including service as a juror, defense attorney, and prosecutor. Aside from peer court, and Del Oro High School responsibilities, Chris has been involved in other violence prevention efforts including the creation of an anger management class which he developed on his own and presented at a local middle school – which was very well received by both students and teachers. Karen is the Placer County Peer Court Coordinator and is responsible for the hundreds of cases the court handles each year. Chris and Karen were recently part of a peer court case which was taped before a live studio audience for the Leeza Gibbons show. Sadly, in September 1998, Chris was dismissed from the Attorney General's Youth Council after being charged by the local district attorney for vandalism and petty theft crimes. The Youth Council asked Karen to stay on the council and provide her leadership and ideas which will encourage other youth to remain accountable for their behavior.

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youth council's beliefs: "16 power plays" for preventing violence

- We believe that gangs in California are our greatest threat and that immediate action must be taken to help stop their spread and to help prevent youth injury and homicide.
- We believe that California is the most ethnically diverse state in the union and we must learn to respect and celebrate our diversity by becoming more culturally aware in our schools and neighborhoods. California must lead by example.
- We believe that the issue of teen dating relationship violence must become more of a community priority rather than treated simply as a private, personal matter.
- We believe that the media must be responsible corporate citizens and thoroughly examine their contributions to our culture of violence and that Californians must demand a consistent television rating system based on content.
- We believe that the faith community must be aggressively recruited to work alongside public agencies and community leaders to prevent violence.
- We believe that youth must be included on all government boards that deal with youth-related issues so that their opinions and ideas can be incorporated into policy and program decisions.
- We believe that alcohol and drug-free students should be rewarded for their positive life-style choice with community and job opportunities.
- We believe that peer or teen courts must be implemented in each of California's 58 counties to instill personal accountability to first-time juvenile offenders and to enhance trust and understanding of our justice system.
- We believe that California communities have the power and duty to prevent youth violence by collaborating and developing community action plans which must involve youth.
- We believe that California's juvenile justice system should be shifted toward a balanced and restorative justice model to give victims and the community more power in the system and more opportunity to heal.
- We believe that community service as a graduation requirement would help connect youth to their communities and create positive relationships with adults.
- We believe that the State of California could benefit youth more effectively by coordinating youth resources to deliver information, training, and resources in a collaborative manner.
- We believe that the health and safety of California's youth is so important that utilizing Megan's Law must be part of the hiring process for all youth-serving organizations and businesses.
- We believe that there is a lack of knowledge among youth about California's firearm laws and that knowing the laws and consequences will lead to a decrease in youth firearm violations, injuries, and deaths.
- We believe that preventing teen pregnancy would have a huge impact on reducing a variety of risk factors and encourage more teens to finish their high school education and become productive citizens.
- We believe that mentoring is a critical factor to reducing youth violence and must be supported by many more responsible Californians.

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Belief statement: The Youth Council believes that male and female gang activity damages the safety and health of every community. Currently, the Department of Justice estimates that there could be as many as 300,000 gang members in the State of California and reports that gang members were responsible for one out of every five willful homicides in California in 1996. We believe that gangs are the greatest threat to California's safety and health and that we must use every resource and strategy available to reduce gang membership and violence.

Recommendation: We recommend that all youth form and participate in support groups and mentoring activities, and that families and communities reward positive behavior. We also recommend that parents participate in programs that will educate them on the early warning signs of gang involvement – all in an effort to help prevent the future spread of gang activity. For those situations in which gangs are already involved in violence, we recommend immediate suppression and incarceration to reduce further violence. In addition, those incarcerated gang members should be held accountable for the impact of their crimes in an effort to rehabilitate and change their lifestyle.

We also recommend that California voters support the juvenile crime initiative which will appear on the ballot in the year 2000. This initiative increases punishments for gang members for their illegal activities and, perhaps one of the best arguments for support, it contains a chapter on penalties for gang associations. We believe that by discouraging identification and association with a particular gang, and enforcing the applicable laws, gangs will no longer flaunt their signs, colors, and tatoos for fear of punishment – guilt by association.

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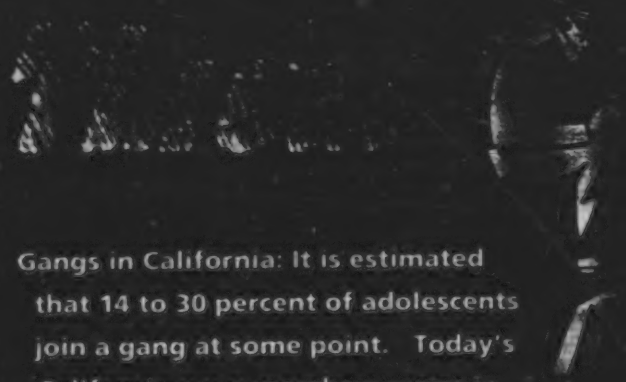

Gangs in California: It is estimated that 14 to 30 percent of adolescents join a gang at some point. Today's California gang members range in age from 11 to 55, with most male gang members ranging in age from 14 to 41 and most female gang members ranging from 15 to 37 years old.

We believe that attention must be given to female gang members. In a 1992 survey of law enforcement agencies, it was estimated that nearly 6 percent of gang involvement was female. This is only an estimate, since there is no statewide clearinghouse of gang-related information that accurately portrays the total number of gang members in California. Nonetheless, this data stresses the fact that female gangs should not be ignored. Most are recruited at a young age, stressing the importance of positive youth networks and early prevention.

How does this recommendation address the "culture of violence?" Currently, gang life is glorified in movies, television, and song. Gang members are often portrayed as heroes, or good guys, when in reality, gang life is destructive and violent and can lead to one of two things - prison or death. Educating youth, the community, and parents about the gang problem, the realities of gang life, and how they can help decrease gang activity, will encourage youth and adults to be active in positive ways within their communities. Also, with the juvenile crime initiative in the year 2000, and the resulting decrease in gang activity, communities will become safer places to live.

INTERNET RESOURCES:

Office of International Criminal Justice
This web site illustrates a report about the link between gangs and criminal activity and provides great statistics and prevention techniques to curtail gang violence.

www.acsp.uic.edu/oicj/pubs/cjfarrago/crimbehavior.html

The Coroner's Report
This web site provides information and resources on gang intervention and prevention. Learn about street gang dynamics and get the latest gang information from The Coroner's Report Newsletter.

www.gang.war.com

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BELIEF STATEMENT: With California's population being the most diverse in the United States, the Youth Council believes that increasing respect for cultural diversity is a critical challenge for California and that youth must take the lead – with the help of their schools – to make it happen. All California teachers, counselors, and administrators must receive updated training on cultural diversity issues, and students must organize, and plan cultural diversity activities on California campuses, and surrounding communities.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY– OUR MOST SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE

RECOMMENDATION:
We recommend that California teens lead the way to demonstrate that we embrace diversity and are eager to learn about different cultural traditions. We must plan and organize positive cultural activities on our California high school campuses and in our neighborhoods. Youth can contact their county Office of Education and tell administrators about the need for cultural activities on their school campuses. In addition, youth can contact community-based organizations concerned about human rights, or who provide services to specific populations. Oftentimes, these organizations are willing to participate, but are rarely asked. Once these cultural activities are established, youth must be the key players in planning and leading the activities. Different ethnic groups should support the activities, not only by attendance, but also by actively participating. These cultural activities can be fun and exciting ways for different cultural and racial groups to mingle and develop relationships that will quickly and effectively break down stereotypes.

In addition, we recommend that the state Board of Education mandate all public school teachers to receive cultural diversity training and school-based annual information about new policies and procedures that promote cultural diversity and respect. As a part of state-mandated safe school plans, school districts should incorporate procedures on how to effectively respond to hate crimes on campus to prevent cultural and racial conflict and violence.

CALIFORNIA'S DIVERSITY:
As of July 1995, California's demographic profile included: 54 percent Caucasian, 28 percent Hispanic, 10 percent Asian and Pacific Islander, 7 percent African American, and 1 percent Native American,[1] illustrating our state's diversity.

HOW DOES THIS RECOMMENDATION ADDRESS THE "CULTURE OF VIOLENCE?"
By actively teaching awareness, understanding, and respect for cultural diversity, racial and cultural conflicts and violence will be reduced.

INTERNET RESOURCES:

Simon Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance
The Simon Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance's web site provides a wealth of information by educating the public about the importance of tolerance in our society.
www.wiesenthal.com

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and Leadership Conference Education Fund
This web site celebrates the strength of diversity in the United States and offers great statistics and recent legislation to help combat hate.
www.civilrights.org

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[1] California Department of Finance quarterly newsletter entitled, California Demographics, Winter 1996.

Teen Dating Relationship Violence– it shouldn't hurt to date

Belief Statement: The Youth Council believes that violence in teen dating relationships could be prevented by embracing the message that there is no excuse for violence in any relationship and that everyone has the responsibility to prevent it.

Recommendation: We recommend that youth help prevent the spread of teen dating relationship violence by getting involved in existing programs in the community that deal with the education of teens, adults, teachers, and parents on the issue of teen dating relationship violence. In 1995, 40 percent of girls aged 14 to 17 said they had a friend their own age who had been hit or beaten by a boyfriend,[1] illustrating that this is a problem the whole community should become involved with. We recommend that community members, including youth, get involved in existing programs to help victims of teen dating relationship violence. To assist with this process, the California Attorney General's Crime and Violence Prevention Center (CVPC) should collaborate with the Departments of Health and Social Services and the California Youth Authority to produce on the Internet a statewide directory of programs addressing teen dating relationship violence to help youth and community members make connections. The CVPC should also develop materials for use by schools and youth organizations.

How does this recommendation address the "culture of violence?" Educating youth, families, and communities that domestic violence and teen dating relationship violence are not acceptable will raise awareness in the state that teens need community-based connections to seek help, educate peers, and understand the strategies available to stop abuse.

Internet Resources

Battered Women's Alternative (BWA)
This organization serves Contra Costa County in California. BWA is the largest domestic violence agency in the San Francisco Bay Area and the sole agency serving 800,000 residents of the county.
http://members.home.net/dwoodhouse/bwa

Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women
This organization has as its goal the elimination of violence against women and children through working toward social change, equality, and social justice.
www.lacaaw.org

[1]Gallup Organization, 1995

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violence in the media toxic environment for youth

Belief Statement: The Youth Council believes that violence in the media contributes to the culture of violence in society. In fact, television shows containing violent scenes rose from slightly over half of prime-time programming in October 1994 to about two-thirds of it in June 1997.[1] We believe that the television industry must create a self-regulating policy to address the issue of violence in television media. Youth must lead by example and not watch violent television shows. Ninety-nine percent of homes in America have a television; so with youth taking an active role to influence the media industry, results could be significant.

Recommendation: We recommend that television develop a consistent and standardized rating system to be used by all networks to identify levels of violence in television programming based on program *content*, and not just age, as is currently used. Levels of sex, violence, and language should be detailed in sub-ratings. Failure to self-regulate should lead to government regulations, or standards. The National Parent Teacher Association (NPTA) has started efforts in the area of television ratings. The NPTA can take the lead in organizing this campaign and enlisting the help of other organizations to bring pressure for a self-regulating set of standards. They can work with the appropriate television industry departments to request the ratings standards and move to government action if the industry does not self-regulate.

How the media affects us: There are many ways media violence can affect us. (1) It can increase aggressiveness and anti-social behavior; (2) It can increase our fear of becoming a victim; (3) It increases desensitization to violence and the victims of violence; and (4) It gives some people an increased appetite for more violence in both entertainment and real life.[2]

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The media can also reinforce stereotypical views people may have by portraying different groups of people in a negative way. Doing so may plant the seeds for future incidences of culture-against-culture violence.

Current television ratings for cartoons and some youth programming is not standardized, nor is it required. Each network, station, or program can use its own rating system (often based on age rather than content); but currently, program rating is voluntary. In fact, a 1998 study on the current rating system found that 79 percent of shows with violence did not carry the "V" notation; 92 percent of shows with sexual content lacked the "S"; 91 percent with adult language did not use the "L"; and 83 percent of shows with suggestive dialogue did not have a "D".[4] This recommendation emphasizes content rating and the need to make it consistent and mandatory.

How does this recommendation address the "culture of violence?" Teens view an average of 2 hours and 35 minutes of television a day.[5] In fact, more than 1,000 studies have determined a causal link between violence depicted in the media and aggressive behavior among those exposed to it.[6] Therefore, reducing the number of violent acts seen by young people will influence how youth deal with anger, diversity, solve problems, and treat one another – helping to reverse our culture of violence.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Center for Media Literacy
This organization develops organizational programs and materials that promote critical thinking about the media.
www.medialit.org

Family Entertainment Guide
This web site provides information on everything from music, television, and film to the Internet and software.
www.familyentertainment.net

Mediascope
This organization encourages accurate and responsible portrayals, particularly as they relate to children and adolescents, in all media.
www.mediascope.org

Street-Level Youth Media
This organization melds art and social commentary together to empower youth. Check out their web site to see the thoughts of youth through art.
http://streetlevel.iit/edu/

[4] ...missioned by the National Cable Television ... conducted by University of ... University of North Carolina ... University of Wisconsin, 1998.

[5] ... Research, 1998.

[6] A 1993 report entitled, "Violence and Youth: Psychology's Response," by the Commission on Violence and Youth of the American Psychological Association, as found in the Center for Media Literacy's "Beyond Blame: Challenging Violence in the Media," 1995.

"A study commissioned by the Kaiser Family Foundation and conducted by the University of California, Santa Barbara, 1998.

Nielson Media Research, 1998.

"The Mass Media and Youth Aggression," by L. Eron, R. Slaby and L. Eron, as found in Readings to Hope: A Psychosocial Perspective on Violence and Youth, eds. L. Eron, J. Gentry, and P. Schlegel. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association, 1995.

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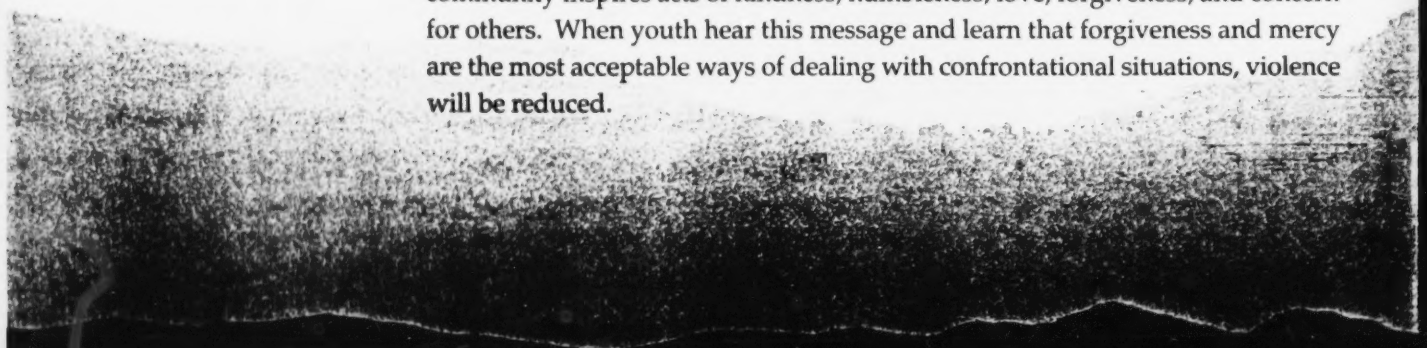
Faith In Action-

Higher Authority for Violence Prevention

Belief statement: The Youth Council believes that the faith community has a critical role in violence prevention and if allowed access to public facilities, would be able to provide violence prevention activities and further spread the message of non-violence. In doing so, more young people would be reached about violence prevention, and the impact on our communities would be positive.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Attorney General and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction develop a bulletin to local and state government legal counsels and county superintendents outlining the statutory authority for the use of school and other public buildings during non-business hours to provide activities that spread the message of non-violence. We recommend that the message from these constitutional officers encourage local leaders to recruit the faith community to collaborate with government and communities to reduce youth violence. In the past, different ministries have tried to utilize school and public buildings for violence prevention activities, but many schools and public organizations have been afraid of violating the constitutional boundaries between the church and state.

How does this recommendation address the "culture of violence?" The faith community inspires acts of kindness, humbleness, love, forgiveness, and concern for others. When youth hear this message and learn that forgiveness and mercy are the most acceptable ways of dealing with confrontational situations, violence will be reduced.



Internet Resources

Center for Religion and Civic Culture: This organization's website is for lay people, clergy and others who are working together building neighborhoods in California.
www.usc.edu/go/rol

Kaleidoreligion: This web site provides links to all faiths with the idea that no harm comes from learning about other cultures and religions.
www.interserv.net/people/curry_kaleid.htm

Campus Crusade for Christ International: This web site provides a list of all major worldwide
www.ccci.org/international/theology.html

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Youth Membership on Government Boards— we want to be heard

Belief statement: The Youth Council believes that all government boards implementing programs dealing with youth issues must involve the opinions and ideas of youth. We believe that youth should take the initiative to get involved with government boards, for the following reasons: (1) looks good on a résumé; (2) gives youth a chance to do something for their communities; and (3) gives youth the power to direct money to those ideas and projects they like. Further, we believe that adults should seek out young people to serve on boards because great youth/adult partnerships can be formed.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Attorney General sponsor legislation to change Government Code 1020 to allow youth full voting membership on government boards. Once this is done, we recommend that all state and local boards dealing with youth issues have a voting youth board member. There are several examples in which a youth serves in this capacity. One example includes the California Board of Education. The student board member is able to voice the concerns of California youth, letting his/her thoughts and opinions about the education system be known to the Board, and has full voting rights. In addition, the Youth Council discovered 18 California counties that involve youth in making local government decisions.

INTERNET RESOURCES:

www.shcp.edu/student/clubs/jrstate.shtml
Junior Statesman of America
This is a national organization that aims to involve young people in the political process and current events.

www.house.gov
United States House of Representatives
This web site gives information on how to contact your state representatives.

www.assembly.ca.gov.
California State Assembly
www.sen.ca.gov
and the California State Senate
These two web sites give the necessary information needed to contact your California representatives.

www.cylc.org
Congressional Youth Leadership Council
This organization provides outstanding high school students an opportunity to study leadership, citizenship and government in the nation's capital.

How does this recommendation address the "culture of violence?"

The United States is a democracy in which the people make the decisions. This recommendation allows youth the chance to help create policy decisions and participate in the democratic process. When youth have decisions constantly made for them, they may begin to feel left out, and the feeling of isolation could ultimately lead to violence. This recommendation involves teens helping adults to make their communities safer and healthier places to live.

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Alcohol and Other Drugs on School Campuses— reward good choices

Belief statement: The Youth Council believes that the use of alcohol and other drugs is a problem at too many California school campuses. The Youth Council further believes that kids who are alcohol and drug free, and pledge to remain that way, should be rewarded with enhanced job and other opportunities in their communities.

Recommendation: We recommend that kids who are alcohol and drug-free, and who sign a school-sponsored pledge to remain so, should be given the opportunity to get involved in businesses, serve on boards, etc. in their communities. While they are still in high school, career centers should offer sessions on résumé and cover letter creation, mock interviews, job training, and the opportunity for job shadowing in the career area of each student's choice. Being better prepared and trained before entering the workplace will serve as an incentive for teens to stay in school and to stay off alcohol and other drugs.

We also recommend that all schools adopt a zero tolerance policy against alcohol and drugs with the use of drug-sniffing dogs as a deterrent. To ensure that schools are a place of learning, schools must practice zero tolerance and adhere to the state education codes that pertain to drug use and selling on school campuses.

[1] *Sixth Biennial Statewide Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use Among California Students, Grades 7, 9 and 11*, May 1998.

[2] *Back to School 1998 – The CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse IV: Teens, Teachers and Principals*, by Joseph A. Califano, Jr., of CASA (Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse) and Dr. Frank Luntz, of The Luntz Research Companies, 1998.

[3] U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, April 1998.

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Alcohol and other drug use by students: Alcohol and other drug use is a serious problem on high school campuses. In fact, 50 percent of 7th graders, 67 percent of 9th graders, and 75 percent of 11th graders reported using alcohol in the six months preceding a 1996 survey.[1] In addition, 51 percent of high school students say the drug problem is getting worse; and, for the fourth straight year, both middle and high school students say that drugs are their biggest concern.[2]

How does this recommendation address the "culture of violence?" There is a link between the use of alcohol and other drugs to crime. In fact, alcohol remains a factor in nearly 40 percent of all violent crimes, and 37 percent of victims thought their assailants were under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs during the commission of their crimes.[3]

By pledging to be drug free, youth are better prepared to not get caught up in the web of crime and violence and to make a future for themselves.

INTERNET RESOURCES:

California Department of Justice and the California Narcotic Officers' Association
www.stopdrugs.org
This web site is packed full of research, prevention techniques, and statistics related to methamphetamines and other drugs.

California Department of Alcohol & Drug Programs
www.adp.cahwnet.gov
Promotes lifestyles free of alcohol and other drug-related problems for the diverse citizens and communities of California.

National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse
www.casecolumbia.org
This web site provides the costs and impacts of substance abuse and offers fantastic treatment and prevention techniques.

Teenwork
www.teenwork.com
This organization began in 1984 with the planning of an alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention training for California high school students. In 1987, these prevention trainings expanded to include pregnancy, gangs, suicide, HIV/AIDS, and recovery. Check out their web site to find out about the Friday Night Live program and their Youth Council.

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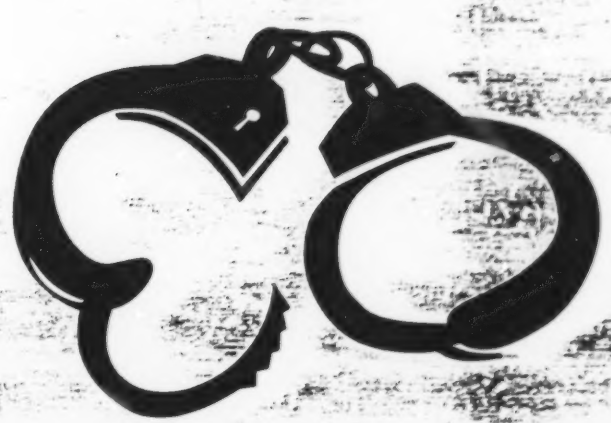
Peer Courts–

UNDERSTANDING justice

Belief statement: The Youth Council believes that for too many California youth, the judiciary and court system is a mystery. In 1983, a program known as peer court began in the state of Texas and has since spread to 26 states, including California. There are 13 counties and 21 cities in California that use peer court as a way to hold youth accountable for first-time offenses.[1] Peer or teen court can be an educational opportunity about the fundamentals of our legal and judicial system. This experience and knowledge may keep students from committing crimes or violence because they understand the consequences that may be given out by a jury of their peers.



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[1]California Research Bureau, "Probation for Adult and Juvenile Offenders: Options for Improved Accountability," by Marcus Nieto, September 1998.

[2]Ibid.

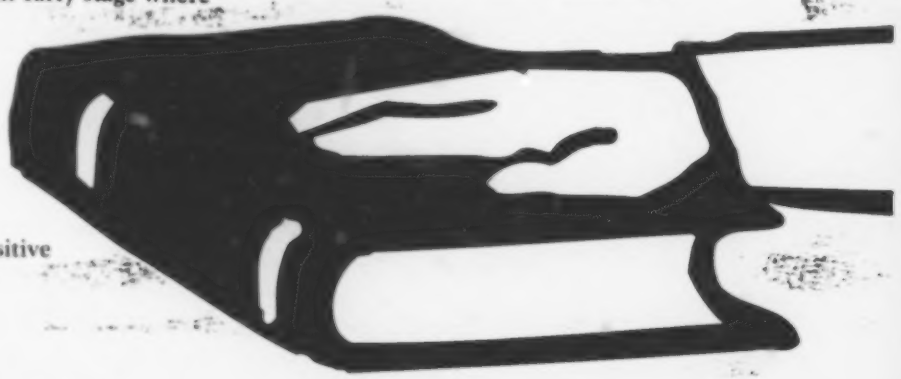
Recommendation: We recommend that all California counties shift their current resources to begin a peer or teen court as a diversion/prevention program that is an alternative to the traditional juvenile court. Peer courts are developed through a collaboration between the courts, district attorney and public defender offices, local law enforcement agencies, probation, the juvenile justice and delinquency prevention commission, the schools, and local youth. Either the juvenile justice and delinquency prevention commission, or the county superior court bench can take the lead, but youth must share their expertise and work as part of the team. The court is run by youth who serve as attorneys, jurors, and court staff to hold first-time juvenile offenders accountable for their offenses. Youth serve on the board of directors to continually evaluate and improve the program.

How does this recommendation address the "culture of violence?" In order to have a case moved into the peer court system, the accused must first plead guilty and agree to waive confidentiality, with the understanding that the offense does not go on the juvenile's record unless he or she fails to complete the peer court's sentence. This admission of guilt promotes personal responsibility and accountability. Nationally, when looking at offenders who have completed their sentence, peer courts have a success rate ranging from 55 to 88 percent, depending on the resources available to monitor the sentenced teen offender.[3] In addition, peer courts involve many agencies in the juvenile justice system, along with parents and youth. Therefore, all involved are aware of the juvenile's act and may serve as deterrents to the youth. Also, first time offenders are held accountable for their offenses at an early stage where diversion can be more successful, rather than allowing the juvenile to continue a pattern of criminal activity until the offenses become more serious. Peer pressure is a powerful force, and peer or teen courts are a way for youth to exert positive peer pressure on one another.

Internet Resources

National Teen Courts of America
This web site gives the facts about teen courts and information about starting a teen court in your area.
www.angelfire.com/biz/nationalteencourts/

Street Law, Inc.
This organization provides the connections between young people, the law, human rights, and democratic values.
www.streetlaw.org



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Youth Master Plans—

Belief statement: The Youth Council believes that partnerships unify communities and benefit not only the youth, but create a safe and healthy community for all. A community united is like binding many twigs into one bundle; separately, the twigs can be easily broken, but together they are strong and unbreakable.

Recommendation: We recommend that local leaders, including youth, bring together representatives from community-based organizations, state agencies, law enforcement, and schools to create community action plans. Already in California, some communities have created community action plans known as Youth Master Plans that strive to improve current programs and present new programs for youth. These plans not only deal with strategies to prevent violence, but also deal with such issues as: diversity, juvenile health and safety, educational opportunities, jobs, and recreational needs. Well-researched Youth Master Plans allow for the differences in each community to be explored and dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Youth in California: Youth are a significant part of California's population. In 1997, people 18 and under made up 9,590,700 of California's 33 million population – almost a third of the state's entire population; in the year 2000 this number is expected to rise to 10,052,000.[1] These numbers stress the fact that youth *must* be a part of every community's action plan; leaving youth out would ignore a major portion of California – an important population whose ideas and actions are critical to preventing violence.

How does this recommendation address the "culture of violence?" When a culture excludes the participation of a segment of its society, that segment will be less concerned about the safety and health of the community, and perhaps engage in destructive or counter-productive activities. Once involved, that segment is connected in a positive way and would have too much to lose if they acted negatively.

[1]California Department of Finance, Demographics Research Unit, July 1998.

INTERNET RESOURCES:

Bureau for At-Risk Youth
www.at-risk.com
This website gives youth a place to learn about what's going on in the at-risk community and where to find resources to help them cope with the important issues that they face.

California League of Cities
www.cacities.org
This organization provides a network of information ranging from legislation, conferences, and priority issues for all California cities.

Teens, Crime, and the Community (TCC)
www.nationalteens.org
TCC utilizes the strengths of young people, educating them and providing the opportunity for them to serve their communities.

Youth Ideas & Actions for Solutions

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Belief statement: The Youth Council believes that both the state and county juvenile justice systems should be guided by a process in which offenders, victims, and the community are all equal and active participants – this process is known as balanced and restorative justice.

Recommendation: We recommend that the California Youth Authority embark on a statewide initiative to assist county juvenile court systems in implementing a new law (Chapter 761 – Statutes of 1998) which emphasizes the use of the balanced and restorative justice approach when sentencing juvenile offenders. In doing so, the state, as well as county systems, will help victims of crime regain control over their lives, help communities feel safer, and hold offenders accountable.

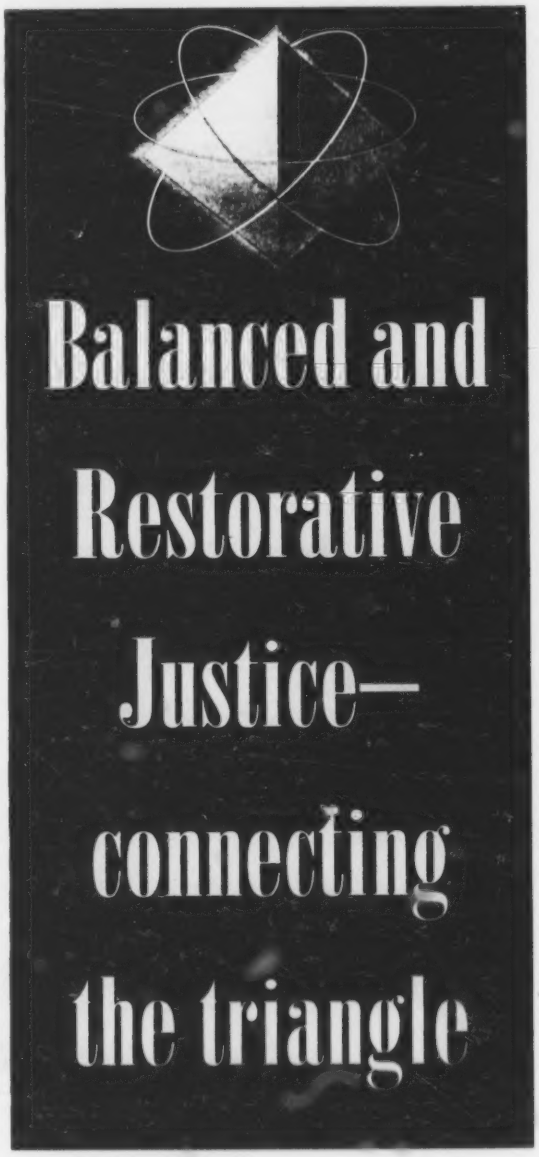
What is balanced and restorative justice?

In 1996, U.S. residents age 12 and older experienced approximately 37 million crimes and 25 percent of these crimes were violent.[1] Balanced and restorative justice gives victims, offenders, and the community a chance to come together to repair the harm that has resulted from the crime and to prevent further violence and victimization.

The restorative justice view is that "crime causes real injuries to real people, and those who commit crimes must be held accountable in real ways."[2] In holding juvenile offenders accountable to their victims and communities, offenders learn how they have personally harmed their victim and their community, and what they can do to make amends to both. Through a balanced and restorative justice approach, juvenile offenders will have a better understanding of the impact and damage they are responsible for causing, perhaps changing them into productive members of society.

How does this recommendation address the "culture of violence?"

As of 1998, it costs $34,600 annually to incarcerate one juvenile offender in the California Youth Authority.[3] It is hoped that by using balanced and restorative justice, these juvenile offenders will stop committing crimes, resulting in a decrease in the prison population and safer communities.



Internet Resources

National Organization For Victim Assistance (NOVA)
www.try-nova.org
NOVA's mission is to promote rights and services for victims of crime and crises everywhere. Learn about their events and projects, and how you can get involved.

California Youth Authority (CYA)
www.cya.ca.gov/organization/opvs/info.html
Check out the many different services provided by the CYA to victims of crime that help involve them in the juvenile justice system and address the long-term impacts of crime.

[1] Crime Victimization 1996, National Crime Victimization survey, U.S. Department of Justice, November 1997
[2] Restorative Justice Institute, Sept. 25, 1998 newsletter
[3] California Youth Authority, Apr. 1998

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Public and Community Service— open the door to opportunity

Belief statement:

The Youth Council believes that community service must be part of the California high school graduation requirement. We believe that youth would want to get involved with community service for many reasons: (1) gets youth into the community so adults see that they are contributing members; (2) youth get school credit for helping out their communities; (3) youth may find community service personally rewarding and continue to help their communities long after they have graduated; and (4) doing work for the community looks good on transcripts when applying to college, or for a job. We also believe that state and local government must provide more internship opportunities for high school students to expand public service opportunities which will help introduce them to the workplace and help them gain credit for community service. Providing internship opportunities would help with the organization's workload and introduce youth to the working world and many caring adults.

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Recommendation:

We recommend that the California Board of Education make community service a requirement for high school graduation. This requirement would begin with freshman and continue with seniors, with community service time equaling a total of 56 hours (7 days per year). A recent survey found that 59 percent of American teens contributed 2.4 billion hours of volunteer work in 1995.[1] Many teens are already doing their communities a service – they may as well get school credit for it! To help students earn credit, state and local government must create volunteer internship opportunities for high school students and coordinate the advertisement of these opportunities with each county's Office of Education and school-based associations and organizations.

How does this recommendation address the "culture of violence?"

Youth engaged in negative behavior often feel left out of the community and do not take ownership. Public service is important in the lives of all citizens and provides an avenue for youth to get involved. However, in a 1998-1999 study, American youth surveyed indicated that government was the most disliked subject in school, and government classes were more disliked by females than males.[2] This finding supports the perception that youth do not have a meaningful connection to institutions which support their education, safety, and health. Also, by engaging in community service, youth and adults can help to reverse negative stereotypes they may have about each other by working together.

INTERNET RESOURCES:

Junior Achievement
An economic education organization that educates young people to value free enterprise, understand business and economics, and be workforce ready. Learn about the programs, how to get involved, and Junior Achievement careers.
www.ja.org

California Commission on Improving Life Through Service
Americorps is the national service program that provides thousands of Americans of all ages and backgrounds with educational awards in exchange for a year or two of community service.
www.cilts.ca.gov/INDEX2.HTML

Kidsway
This organization keeps youth aged 8-18 informed about business, careers, finance, and entrepreneurship opportunities.
www.kidsway.com

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[1] A 1995 Independent Sector survey as found in the newsletter, *Connections*, Vol. 9, No. 3, Fall 1997.
[2] "The State of our Nation's Youth 1998-1999," Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc., 1998.

State Coordination of Youth Resources-

Belief statement: The Youth Council believes that state government could do a much better job in assisting local communities by coordinating among state agencies, youth service delivery, training, and information services to communities. Once coordination is established, each government agency should set up a youth speaker's bureau to help spread the word on each agency's youth violence prevention efforts, and other program, training, and grant services.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Governor of California issue an executive order to launch a youth violence prevention initiative which would coordinate the activities of the 24 California state agencies that serve youth and help them improve service delivery to communities. Currently, the 24 state agencies that deliver youth services to communities do so primarily in an uncoordinated and non-collaborative fashion. Once all of these agencies start communicating with one another, each of the 24 agencies should set up a youth speaker's bureau to represent the agency and its programs at trainings, conferences, policy meetings, legislative committee hearings, etc. These youth could also serve as consultants to the agency. (For example, the Crime and Violence Prevention Center in the Department of Justice, would establish a youth speaker's bureau and consult with them on products and program ideas related to youth; youth would get to express their thoughts and give a youth perspective, as well as represent the agency at external meetings).

How does this recommendation address the "culture of violence?" Youth being a part of their government and its youth-related activities, will help them feel included. Also, youth can have a sense of ownership and power by helping government decide how and where available crime prevention resources should be spent. Crime will decrease if everyone is included and consulted on issues that pertain to them.

INTERNET RESOURCES:

THE CALIFORNIA WELLNESS FOUNDATION (CWF)

One of California's largest health maintenance organizations, the CWF focuses on community health, population health improvement, teenage pregnancy prevention, violence prevention, and work and health. Check out their web site for more information on how to get involved.

www.tcwf.org

PARTNERSHIP AGAINST VIOLENCE

This is an online "virtual library" of information about violence and youth-at-risk representing data from seven different federal agencies.

www.pavnet.org

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The following California state government agencies provide a significant level of education, training, resources, and information for young people in California:

- Department of Justice/ Attorney General's Office
- Department of Education
- Arts Council
- Office of Child Development and Education
- National Guard
- Office of Criminal Justice Planning
- Commission on Improving Life Through Service
- Board of Corrections
- Youth Authority
- Youthful Offenders Parole Board
- Conservation Corps
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs/Mentor Initiative
- Department of Community Service and Development
- Employment Development Department
- Department of Health Services
- Department of Social Services
- Alcoholic Beverage Control
- Highway Patrol
- Department of Housing and Community Development
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Office of Traffic Safety
- Board of Education
- Secretary of State's Office

collaboration equals success

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Megan's Law CD-ROM

Utilization in Youth-serving Organizations & Businesses- protecting children

Belief statement: The Youth Council believes that all youth-serving organizations and businesses should utilize the Megan's Law CD-ROM for volunteer and employment decisions, in order to ensure the safety of youth. We also believe that youth should be able to review the CD-ROM under the supervision of a parent or legal guardian.

Recommendation: We recommend that youth help to ensure the safety of their peers by encouraging their community organizations and businesses that cater to youth to utilize the Megan's Law CD-ROM to screen potential volunteers and employees. In doing so, these organizations and businesses can help prevent the possible victimization of the youth they serve. We also recommend that due to the high number of children who visit them, California family theme parks should be the leaders in the private sector and utilize the Megan's Law CD-ROM to screen their employees and volunteers.

In addition, we recommend that the legislature and Governor create a law that would allow those under 18 years of age to view the Megan's Law CD-ROM with their parents or legal guardian, to help identify faces in their neighborhoods and community organizations that may pose a threat to their safety. Giving youth access to public safety information partners them with law enforcement and enhances community safety.

What is Megan's Law? The federal version of California's Megan's Law was signed into law on May 8, 1996. This act encourages states to implement programs that release information to the public regarding specified sexual offenders. This law was passed in response to the rape and murder of seven-year-old New Jersey resident Megan Kanka by a convicted child molester living in her neighborhood.

California's version of Megan's Law was signed into law September 25, 1996. The new law required the Department of Justice to develop and distribute to law enforcement agencies information about serious and high-risk sex offenders. Adults may view this information at all sheriff's departments and many police departments throughout the state on a CD-ROM which was developed and released in 1997. To date, there are profiles of more than 64,000 registered convicted sex offenders that can be viewed on the Megan's Law CD-ROM.[1]

How does this recommendation address the "culture of violence?" Keeping convicted sex offenders out of our community organizations and businesses prevents sexual abuse and years of emotional pain. Utilizing the Megan's Law CD-ROM encourages higher standards in our culture for child safety.

[1] *California's Megan's Law The First Year: Lifting the Shroud of Secrecy.* California Department of Justice, May 1998.

INTERNET RESOURCES

California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General
www.caag.state.ca.us/megan/
This web site provides the who, what, when, and why about California's Megan's Law and tells you where you can go to view the Megan's Law CD-ROM.

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protecting

Centers for Disease Control, August 1998

Belief statement: The Youth Council believes that knowledge of all California firearms laws, as they pertain to youth, could help deter youth gun violence. Every youth wants to attend safe and weapon-free campuses but, according to a recent study, one in five teens carries a weapon. We believe that youth want their peers to hear about the latest firearm laws because knowledge of these laws may change teens' minds about carrying a weapon to school.

Recommendation: We recommend that a collaboration involving youth, schools, the Department of Justice, California Highway Patrol, and the Department of Education develop materials to educate students about the penalties and other consequences involved when possessing or using a gun illegally. Knowledge about gun- free zones, the minimum age at which an adult can legally possess a handgun (21 years), the 1997 10-20-Life law, and other serious legal and safety consequences will lower the number of firearm-related injuries and deaths. In addition to statewide leadership and education efforts by the California Department of Justice, California Highway Patrol, and the Department of Education, we believe that the School/Law Enforcement Partnership Cadre could be utilized to assist schools and communities with this awareness and prevention campaign.

How does this recommendation address the "culture of violence?"
Having knowledge of firearm laws and the consequences of firearm use will help to deglamorize the gun violence seen in movies, music videos, arcade games, and popular songs.. Showing the consequences may lead youth to think before they act.

Educating Youth About Firearm Laws— Understanding Consequences

INTERNET RESOURCES

California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General
This web site tells of the most recent dangerous weapons control laws and pending legislation regarding firearms. Also answered, are the most frequently asked questions from the public regarding firearms.
www.caag.state.ca.us/firearms

Center to Prevent Handgun Violence
Provides information about handgun violence,how to protect yourself and family, laws, and legal actions
www.handguncontrol.org

California Rifle and Pistol Association (CRPA)
This organization keeps updated information on firearm-related legislation and provides educational materials to the public regarding the safe and proper use of firearms.
www.concentric.net/~rweller/CRPA.htm

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Belief statement: The Youth Council believes that, too often, teen pregnancies are the result of adult males taking advantage of girls with low self-esteem, weak family support, and poor academic standing. In 1991, 62 percent of pregnant teenagers had been victims of molestation, attempted rape, or rape before their first pregnancy.[1] In addition, these risk factors, along with the high probability that the mother and child will be abandoned by the adult father, makes the family more susceptible to crime and violence. In fact, 70 percent of all juveniles in reform institutions come from fatherless homes.[2] We also believe that preventing teen pregnancy will decrease poverty since teenage mothers are considered to be among the groups with the "highest risk" of long-term welfare dependency.[3] We further believe that preventing teen pregnancy now, will help to stop teen pregnancy in the future. It is a fact that children who grow up in the homes of single mothers are one and a half times more likely to become teen parents themselves than are children who live in two-parent families.[4] We also believe that teens can demonstrate their power by respecting their bodies and abstaining from sex until marriage. In a recent study, 75 percent of teens said it was considered a "good thing to make a conscious decision not to have sex until some later time."[5]

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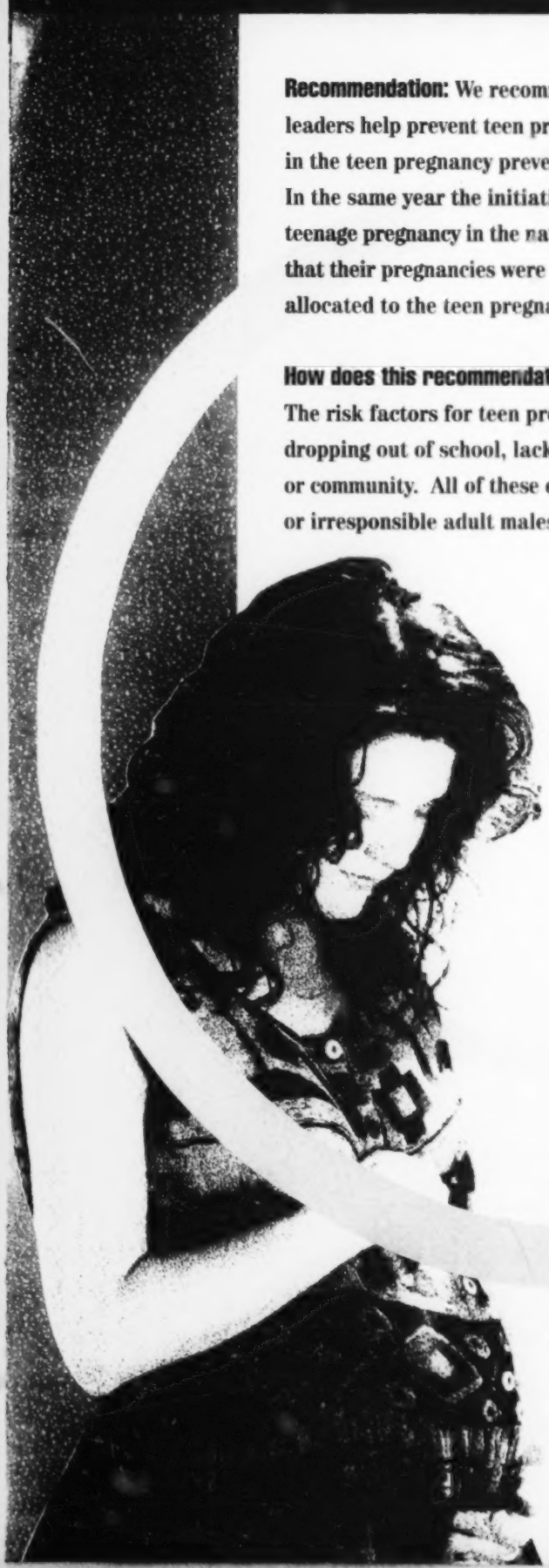

Recommendation: We recommend that the Governor and other state government leaders help prevent teen pregnancy by maintaining the current level of investment in the teen pregnancy prevention initiative begun by Governor Wilson in 1996. In the same year the initiative was signed, California had the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in the nation.[6] And in 1995, nearly 82 percent of teens reported that their pregnancies were unintended.[7] To date, over 29 million dollars has been allocated to the teen pregnancy prevention initiative in California.

How does this recommendation address the "culture of violence?"

The risk factors for teen pregnancy are early dating, use of alcohol and drugs, dropping out of school, lack of support groups, and lack of involvement in family or community. All of these contribute to a vulnerability of which sexual predators or irresponsible adult males may take advantage.

[1] "Sexual Abuse as a Factor in Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Maltreatment," D. Boyer and D. Fine, Family Planning Perspectives, Vol. 24, No. 4, January/February 1992.
[2] "Juvenile Delinquency, Family Violence and the Decline of the Two-Parent Family," California Department of Social Services, December 1994.
[3] Department of Health Services, 1995.
[4] "Kids Having Kids: A Synthesis of Project Findings," June 1996.
[5] A joint study by the Kaiser Family Foundation and YM magazine, 1998.
[6] Department of Health Services, May 1998.
[7] Institute of Medicine, 1995, as cited by the California Department of Health Services.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Department of Health Services (DHS)
www.ca.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/index.htm
Browse through the DHS web site and their Primary Care and Family Health Office to learn more about the abstinence program and community challenge grants which partner community groups with the state to respond to the challenge of teenage pregnancy.

Campaign for our Children (CFOC)
www.cfoc.org
This organization promotes abstinence and provides statistics, stories, support, and resources to teens about the consequences of having sex too early.

Ask Alice
www.columbia.edu/cu/healthwise/alice.html
This is an interactive, question and answer web page. Each week Alice answers questions about health, including: sexuality, sexual health, relationships, general health, fitness & nutrition, emotional health, and alcohol, nicotine, & other drugs.

Fatherhood Initiative
www.fatherhoodproject.org
The Fatherhood Initiative is conducting a national research and education project that is examining the future of fatherhood and developing ways to support men's involvement in child rearing.

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Belief statement: The Youth Council believes that youth/adult partnerships are critical to preventing violence and that youth-to-youth mentoring needs to expand in California.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Governor and other state government leaders help prevent violence by maintaining the current level of investment in the California Mentor Initiative (CMI). In addition, an enhancement of the CMI's private sector marketing and recruitment effort would provide more mentors to California youth. We recommend that youth and adults sign up to be mentors by contacting the CMI at: 1700 K Street, CA 95814; 800-444-3066; or on the Internet at **www.calmentor.ca.gov**

Mentoring

What is the California Mentor Initiative? The CMI was signed into law by Governor Wilson on April 3, 1996 with its goal focused on the reduction of four major youth challenges: alcohol/drug abuse, teen pregnancy, educational failure, and gangs and violence. Some of these challenges were discussed in a 1995 study by Public/Private Ventures (P/PV) for the organization Big Brothers/Big Sisters. P/PV found a 46 percent reduction in the initiation of drug use and a 27 percent reduction in the initiation of alcohol use in young people who were mentored.[1] P/PV concluded that the research presented clear and encouraging evidence that mentoring programs can create and support caring relationships between adults and youth, resulting in a wide range of tangible benefits. And, in a California study, it was found that 80 percent of mentored youth go on to college compared to a statewide average of 54 percent.[2]

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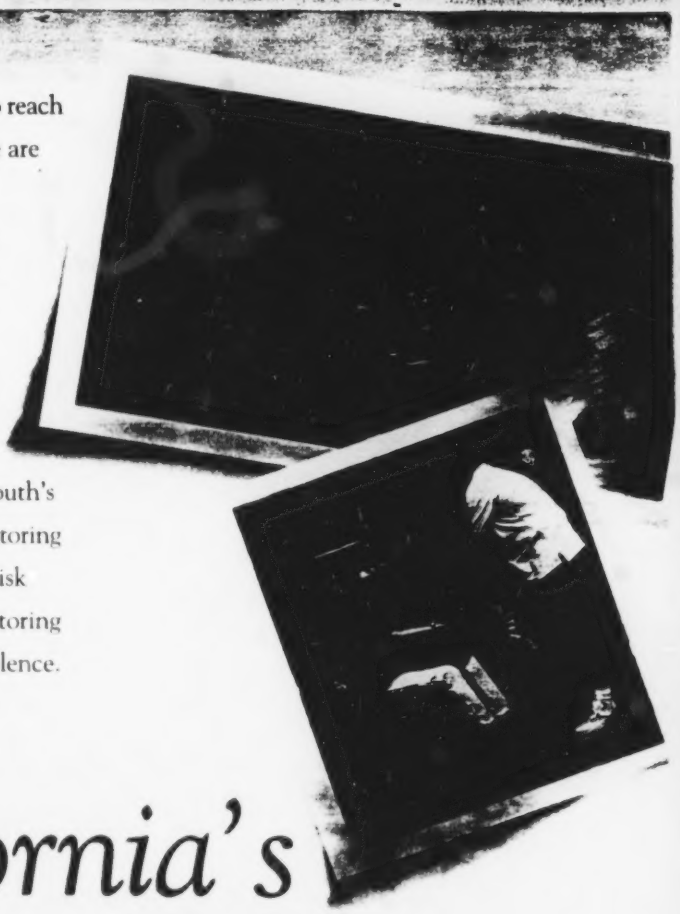
The CMI plans to recruit and train 250,000 quality mentors to reach 1,000,000 at-risk youth by the year 2000. At this time, there are 78,000 youths on waiting lists for an adult mentor, and approximately 132,000 mentors signed up. Over 35 million dollars has been allocated to the CMI since its initiation in April of 1996.

How does this recommendation address the "culture of violence?" Many studies on mentoring have stressed the importance of a caring adult in an at-risk youth's life. However, perhaps the most significant finding of any mentoring study has been this: the simple addition of an adult in an at-risk youngster's life reduced violent behavior by 32 percent.[3] Mentoring an at-risk young person can drastically reduce our culture of violence.

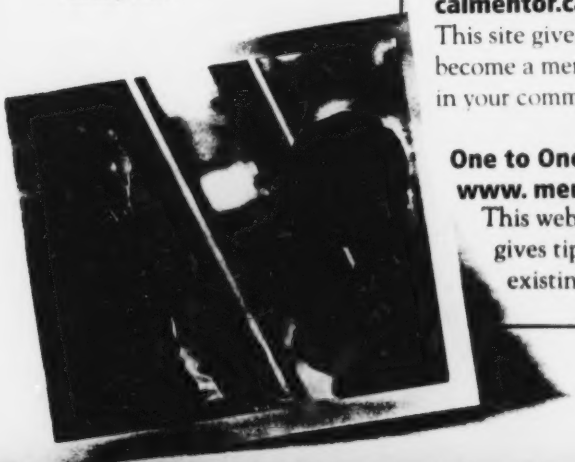


key to California's public safety and health

[1] "Preventing Crime, Saving Children: Monitoring, Mentoring, and Ministering," The Council on Crime in America, February 1997.

[2] "California Task Force to Review Juvenile Crime and the Juvenile Justice Response," California Youth Authority Task Force, 1996.

[3] "Preventing Crime, Saving Children: Monitoring, Mentoring, and Ministering," The Council on Crime in America, February 1997.



INTERNET RESOURCES

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America
www.bbbsa.org
Big Brothers and Big Sisters' mission is to provide a one-to-one prevention-based service to at-risk youth.

California Mentor Initiative
calmentor.ca.gov
This site gives you information on mentoring, helps you register to become a mentor, and locates mentoring organizations and activities in your community.

One to One National Mentoring Partnership
www. mentoring.org
This web site gives great statistics on the effects of mentoring and gives tips on how to start a mentoring program or improve an existing mentoring initiative.

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Awesome Youth Violence

America's Promise
www.americaspromise.org
America's Promise is an alliance of corporations, foundations, organizations, communities, public agencies, and individuals that help at-risk children live happy, healthy, and productive lives.

Anti-Defamation League
www.adl.org
Their mission is to secure justice and fair treatment to all citizens. Check out their web site for terrorism updates and breaking news on hate crimes.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America
www.bgca.org
This web site is designed to help youth from all backgrounds, with special concern for those from disadvantaged circumstances, develop the qualities to become responsible citizens and leaders.

Boy Scouts of America
www.bsa.scouting.org
The Boy Scouts of America's web site provides information about scouting via interactive games and activities.

California Attorney General's Crime and ViolencePrevention Center (CVPC)
www.caag.state.ca.us/cvpc
An excellent web site that provides assistance and resources on community policing, neighborhood and personal safety, family violence prevention, youth gang prevention, violence prevention, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, and safe schools, as well as information on publications, reports & surveys, and films & videos produced by CVPC.

Camp Fire Boys and Girls
www.campfire.org
Camp Fire Boys and Girls supports the development of motivated, self-confident boys and girls. Here, you can learn how to help and see what's new.

Center for Youth as Resources (YAR)
www.yar.org/yar.htm
YAR is a community-based program that provides small grants to young people to design and carry out service projects that address social problems and contribute to significant community change.

Community Policing Consortium
www.communitypolicing.org
This web site provides community policing training and technical assistance to police departments and sheriff's offices that use community oriented policing.

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Girls Scouts of the USA
www.girlscouts.org
Girls Scouts provides a safe, supportive way for girls to participate in projects involving computers and technology, careers, the environment, personal finance, and sports.

The Joseph Matteucci Foundation (JMF)
www.jmf4peace.org
This web site is dedicated to youth non-violence in sports. Check out what you can do to help make the sports activities you participate in safe and fun.

National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)
www.ncpc.org
NCPC offers useful information about crime prevention, community building, comprehensive planning, and shows great violence prevention strategies just for teens to use.

National 4-H Council
www.fourhcouncil.edu
The 4-H council helps provide coeducational programs and activities to diverse groups of youth in all geographic locales nationwide.

National Network for Youth
www.nn4youth.org
The mission of the National Network for Youth is to ensure that young people can be safe and grow up to lead healthy and productive lives. Find out about community youth development, youth involvement and leadership, and youth/adult partnerships.

National Network of Violence Prevention Practitioners (NNVPP)
www.edc.org/HHD/NNVPP
NNVPP unites practitioners in a national movement to prevent youth violence, and strengthen families and communities.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
www.ncjrs.org/ojjhome.htm
This web site offers different strategies to prevent and control juvenile crime and improve the juvenile justice system.

Office of Traffic Safety
www.ots.org/youthquake/final/index.html
This web site discusses the findings of a report entitled "Youthquake," which looks at the effect Generation Y will have on traffic safety in California – particularly focusing on drinking and driving.

Prevention Internet Resources

Points of Light Foundation
www.pointsoflight.org

The purpose of this organization is to engage more people more effectively in volunteer community service to help solve serious social problems.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools
www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools program is the federal government's primary vehicle for reducing drug, alcohol, and tobacco use, and violence through education and prevention activities in our nation's schools.

YMCA
www.ymca.net

This is the country's largest community service organization, providing values-based experiences that nurture the healthy development of children and teens, support families, and strengthen communities.

YWCA
www.ywca.org

The mission of the YWCA is to empower women and girls and to work to eliminate racism.

Youth Crime Watch of America
www.ycwa.org

This organization assists youth in actively reducing crime and drug use in their schools and communities.

Youth Services America (YSA)
www.servenet.org/content/ysa/YSA.asp

Youth Services America is an alliance of organizations committed to communities and national service. Their mission is to build healthy towns and cities, foster citizenship, knowledge, and personal development through a powerful network of service opportunities for young Americans.

Virtual Youth Hall of Fame International
www.youthhall.org

The Virtual Youth Hall of Fame International honors school-age youth from around the world who are taking positive action in their lives and giving back to others at home, at school, and in their community.

Internet chat rooms have their own language. Here are some examples of phrases that are often abbreviated.

AFAIK: "as far as I know
BRB: "I'll be right back" (to the chat room)
BTW: "by the way"
CUL8R!: "see you later!"
E2EG: "ear-to-ear grin"
FWIW: "for what it's worth
GAL: "get a life"
<G>: "grinning" (usually only appears in newsgroups)
HTH: "hope this/that helps
IANAL: "I am not a lawyer"
IMHO: "in my humble opinion
IMNSHO: "in my not-so-humble opinion
IOW: "in other words"
IRL: "in real life" (typically appears only in chat rooms
L8R!: "later!"
LOL: "laughing out loud"
NRN: "no reply necessary"
OTOH: "on the other hand"
PMFJI: "pardon me for jumping in" (to ongoing dicussion)
ROTFL: "rolling on the floor laughing"
RTFM: "read the flippin' manual"
WMTA: "warped minds think alike"
WTG!: "way to go"
WTH: "what the heck?"
WYSIWYG: "what you see is what you get"
YGWYPF: "you get what you pay for"

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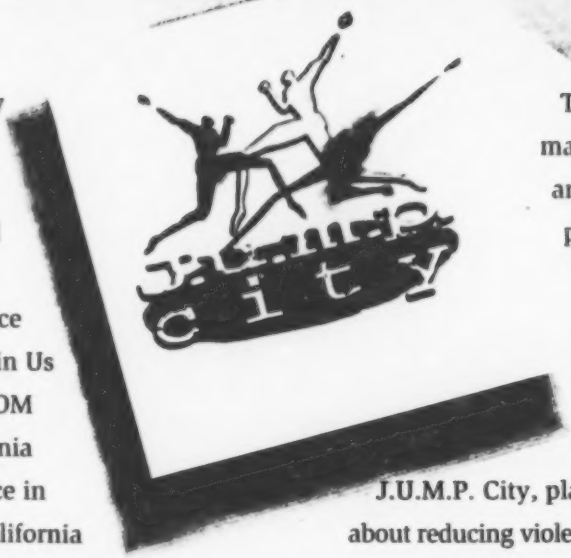
Check out the youth violence prevention CD-ROM entitled: J.U.M.P. City



Imagine a community where teens are leading the way in preventing violence and peace rules the streets! You can visit such a place in the new J.U.M.P. (Join Us Make Peace) City CD-ROM produced by the California Attorney General's Office in partnership with the California Youth Authority, and the California Department of Health Services.

J.U.M.P. City is an interactive, reality-based adventure with great music, surprising encounters, awesome games, and cool video clips that educate players about ways to reverse America's culture of violence. It features community safety strategies which are reducing risk, raising responsibility, and rewarding respect, and that's what violence prevention is all about!

The J.U.M.P. City CD-ROM has many familiar locations found in any community: a school, park, place of worship, police station, teen center, media outlets, hospital, homes, restaurant, department of justice, library, and even an empty lot. By clicking on these places in J.U.M.P. City, players get ideas and inspiration about reducing violence in their own neighborhoods via messages which appear as pop-up digital video. By promoting peace and making positive choices, players are rewarded with special tokens and ultimately become the hero of J.U.M.P. City.

Every copy of the J.U.M.P. final report includes one copy of a cross-platform J.U.M.P. City CD-ROM. If you are unable to locate this copy, or would like to order more, call Cal Image Associates at (800) 982-1420 or visit their website at **www.calimage.com** for information.

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join us make peace

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The Youth Council would like to thank the following people and businesses for their support during our Attorney General's Office sponsored meetings in Sacramento, Fresno, and Los Angeles, our telephone conference call guests, and those who took a risk on the concept of the youth council and developed it with the Crime and Violence Prevention Center staff.

Special thanks extended to the Attorney General's Policy Council on Violence Prevention for your blueprint report, *Violence Prevention... A Vision of Hope 1995 Final Report*. By devoting 18 recommendations in your final report to the Youth Initiative, you gave us a foundation and the evidence that we were on the right track to promote violence prevention through the talent and abilities of youth.

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For their help in developing the Attorney General's Youth Council on Violence Prevention concept in August 1997, the Crime and Violence Prevention Center would like to thank:

Kate Fogle, **Sonia Cagle**, **Allison Curry (youth rep.)**, California Child, Youth and Family Coalition; **Tracy Fried**, **Jamie Lira (youth rep.)**, Southern California Youth Family Center; **Natalie Harrigan**, Irvine Unified School District; **Kip Lowe**, Office of Prevention and Victim Services, California Youth Authority; **Henry Lozano**, **Adam Chow (youth rep.)**, Californians for Drug-Free Youth.; **Bob Blankenship**, Redding Chief of Police; **Lincoln Ellis**, Boys & Girls Club of Stockton; **Margaret Ensley**, Mothers Against Violence in Schools; **Pete Mehas**, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools.

For our November 1997 Sacramento meeting, we would like to thank the following people for providing us with their personal testimony, vision to prevent youth violence, and time at our public hearing in the State Capitol on November 13, 1997:

Bob Blankenship, Redding Chief of Police; **Rex Hime**, California Business Properties Association; **Catherine Camacho**, Department of Health Services; **Jack Stevens**, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

The following people were instrumental in providing services which made our Sacramento meeting such a success:

John Claude Lashkar, **Mike Miller**, Nordstroms at Arden Fair Mall; **Joelle Orrock**, Friday Night Live, Sacramento County Office of Education; **Lane Aldridge**, Double Tree Hotel; **Marla Smotherman**, Radisson Hotel Catering; **Jason Campbell**, **Jason Vega**, **Kristie W.**, The Old Spaghetti Factory restaurant, **Richard H. Hoffelt**, **Catherine Curran**, **Sue Daponde**, **John Marshall**, Shriners Hospital for Children; **Linna Waller**, Country Club Events Center; **Peter Stamison**, **Saul Rodriguez**, **Greg Sandin**, **Judy Esola**, **Trudy Holder**, **Lynn Markey-Jacobs**, **Bob Turk**, **George Riley**, Department of General Services, Sacramento; **Joseph Mette**, **E. Dotson Wilson**, **Ronald E. Pane**, **Karen Gutierrez**, **Melissa Weikel**, State Capitol; **Barbara Langdon**, Opportunities for the Handicapped, Inc.; **KTXL-40 TV** (Sacramento); **KPWB-31 TV** (Sacramento); **KNBC-4 TV** (Los Angeles).

For our February 1998 Fresno planning meeting, we would like to thank:

Pete Mehas, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools; **Ken Quenzer**, Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County; **Rick Kriegbaum**, Fresno Leadership Foundation; **Lt. Joseph Blohm**, Fresno County Sheriff's Office; **Lt. John Fries**, Assistant to the Chief of Police, City of Fresno; **Rudy Marez**, Cornerstone Church; **Lucianna Ventresca**, Joe Williams Center; **Homer Leija**, Fresno Barrios Unidos; **Bill Smith**, Department of Justice, Fresno Crime Laboratory; **William Stoller**, Department of Justice, Fresno Bureau of Investigation; **Wilfredo Cid**, Department of Justice, Fresno Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement; **Dan Kimble**, Friday Night Live Program, Fresno County Office of Education; **Susan Bechara**, House of Hope for Youth, Inc.; **Pastor Rudy Renya**, Cornerstone Church.

For our March 1998 Fresno meeting, we would like to thank the following people for providing us with their personal testimony, vision to prevent youth violence, and time at our public hearing in Fresno City Hall on March 13, 1998:

Frederica Jones, **Kristle Luecke**, Fresno County Victim/Witness Assistance; **Susan Bechara**, **Scott Tao**, **Dennis Key**, House of Hope for Youth, Inc.; **Frank Alarcon**, **Thomas Thornton**, **Felix** and **Alicia Garcia**, **Ricky Gonzales**, California Youth Authority; **Daniel "Nane" Alejandre**, **Maribell Gallardo**, Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos; **Homer Leija**, Fresno Barrios Unidos; **T.J. Delagarza**, **Michael Zavala**, Cornerstone Church; **Lincoln Ellis**, **Charles Johnson**, Boys & Girls Clubs of Stockton; **Kay Coffin**, **Eddie Bryant**, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America; **Alfonso Hernandez**, Chicano Youth Center; **John Minkler**, Fresno Youth Service Council, Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship; **Kevin Jenkins**, Board of Trustees, Hanford High School, California State School Boards Association; **Mike Reynolds**, Public Safety Advocate; **Randy Merton**, **Beimar Hernandez**, **Susan Vue**, **Daniel Valverde**, **Andy Knott**, Fresno County Office of Education;

Sherman Spiers, Youth Alive; **Ron Exley**, **Ray Wallace**, **Jasmine Wallace**, **Melvin Gardner**, California Police Activities League; **Bernard Brown**, **Robert Lacy, Jr.**, "Just Say No" International; Fresno television stations: **KSEE-24 TV**; **KMPH-26 TV**; **KJEO-47 TV**; **KMSG-59 TV**.

The following people were instrumental in providing services which made our Fresno meeting such a success:
Peter Stamison, **Tim Bow**, Department of General Services, Sacramento; **Sandra Andrews**, San Joaquin Suites; **Jimmy Pardini**, Pardini's restaurant; **Tai Fumito**, Yoshinos restaurant; **Ginger Barrett**, **Peggy Henricksen**, **Dave Helzer**, Fresno City Hall; **Barbara Merchant**, Camp Sugar Pine; **Ken Quenzer**, Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County; **Teresa Hurtado**, Catering by Teresa's; **Anthony Reta**, Abbey Party Company.

We would also like to thank those who provided their expertise and personal testimony during our July 22, and August 10, 1998 telephone conference calls:
Nghia Tran, **Pamela Pham**, Wellness Foundation and Pacific Center on Violence Prevention; **Holly Potter**, Resources for Youth; **Dr. Jim Kooler**, California Mentor Initiative; **Alexandra Matteucci**, Joseph Matteucci Foundation; **Megan Kephart**, California Board of Education; **Rev. Eugene Williams III**, Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches.

For our August 1998 Los Angeles meeting, we would like to thank:
Ramon Gutierrez, Department of General Services, Los Angeles; **Cornelius Prydekker**, **Arlene Caluya-Laucis**, Universal City Hilton and Towers; **Superintendent Brian Rivera**, Fred C. Nelles Youth Correctional Facility; **Kathy Quillin**, Wizardz restaurant; **Bryan Aley**, Country Star restaurant; **Phyllis Caskey**, **Geri Wilson**, **Tevo Benavides**, Hollywood Entertainment Museum; **Derrick Washington**, Party Planners; **Patty Archuletta**, California Film Commission; **Dr. Curran Warf**, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles; **Dr. Linda Reid**, American Association of Pediatrics; **Olivia Maiser**, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, **Kevin Holsclaw**, Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

In addition to all of the staff at the Attorney General's Crime and Violence Prevention Center, we would like to extend our appreciation to two volunteers of the center – **Professor Francis Fletcher** and **Carl Brisendine** – for their invaluable assistance, outstanding research, and personal enthusiasm for the success of the Youth Council.

We also extend thanks to all of you who met with the Youth Council teams in your communities and responded to our survey. Due to the length of the list, we have posted your names on our Internet site and on the Youth Council site in the J.U.M.P. City CD-ROM.

Extra special appreciation for the awesome work of our facilitation team – **Henry C. Lozano**, **Mr. Henriey Adame**, and **Bonny Beach** – who were there with us through thick and thin and modeled the value of youth/adult partnerships and organizational collaboration.

The Attorney General's Youth Council on Violence Prevention would not have been possible without the leadership and direction of **Carolyn Ortiz, Director of the Crime and Violence Prevention Center** since 1991. Other Crime and Violence Prevention Center staff who contributed to the success of the Youth Council include: **Assistant Director Nancy Lyons, Producer/Writer Andrew Wagner, Program Managers Sean Tracy** and **Olin Jones, Analysts Regina Banks, Alda Gray** and **Wendy Tully,** and **Word Processing Technician Madeline Jimenez.**

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